



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Summary July 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Mark Firley and introductions were done.

The meeting summary from June 15, 2015 was approved (motion by T. Printz-Platnick; seconded by M. Kamara)

#### **Discussion – Upcounty Priorities for CIP**

There was not enough time after the July 13<sup>th</sup> community forum on the CIP to prioritize issues and recommendations to forward to the County Executive. The discussion was held and recommendations were drafted at this meeting.

From the perspective of the Quality of Life Committee, priorities concern parks and recreation issues:

- a) Renovating of the Upcounty Community Recreation Center - This item benefits a geographically, culturally, and economically diverse population and receives broad community support.
- b) Relocating of the carousel in Wheaton Regional Park to Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park to form the centerpiece of a phased improvement to that park in Clarksburg.
- c) Continuing progress on the Magruder Branch Hiker-Biker Trail Extension.

From the perspective of the Land Use Committee, priorities focus on transportation issues:

- a) Accelerating plans for the installation of adaptive or so-called “intelligent” traffic signaling projects in the Upcounty area as a first measure of relief for traffic congestion in the Germantown/Clarksburg corridor. We also recommend initiating study of ramp metering and other flow control measures to improve highway flow (and thus capacity) in the I-270 corridor.
- b) Making intersection and other roadway improvements between Germantown and Clarksburg that should be done as soon as possible. We understand that at least some of these projects are currently underway or under study, and we express our desire to make them a priority in the CIP. Our discussion on the CIP projects also pointed out to us that economic, effective remedy of the transportation issues in the area may be benefitted by increased coordination of efforts between the County and the State, especially as it regards MD Route 355 and MD Route 27.
- c) Continuing progress on the Observation Drive project is vital to the success of transportation efforts in our area.
- d) From a standpoint of pedestrian safety alone, the extension of the hiker/biker path along MD Route 355 (Frederick Road) would be warranted so that it served the area from Milestone Manor Lane in Germantown to the Clarksburg community. Because of the increasing population in the area, we have selected it as part of our highest priority list.

Chair Mark Firley will draft the letter conveying these recommendations to County Executive Leggett.

As part of their focus for the coming year, the board will continue to advocate for the recommendations noted above. The board also plans to meet with State legislators and Council members when possible.

**Chair’s Report** – none.

**Committee / Liaison Reports** – none.

**Community Concerns/Comments** – none.

The meeting was adjourned (motion by P. Seals, seconded by D. New).

*Board Attendance:* Dennis Barnes, Brian Donohue, Arthur Edmunds, Mark Firley, Mamady Kamara, Darlene Kerr, Kevin Linck, Linda Moore, Robert Nelson, Daisha New, Tobi Printz-Platnick, David Rosenbaum, Pat Seals, James Wallace, Kraig Walsleben, and Joel Yesley (via phone).

*Additional Guests:* Richard Blanton, and Richard Wilder

*Staff:* Catherine Matthews and Chiffon Smith

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